

BMW of North America, Inc.

September 22, 2000

RECEIVED

00 OCT 2 PM 2:45

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein

Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Department of Transportation

400 7th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20590

OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

RE: Recall Campaign - Seat Backrest
2000 BMW R 1200 C Motorcycles

00V-289 (6)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and 49 CFR Part 573.

Pursuant to Section 573.5 (c) of the above, we submit the following information:

1. Manufacturer: Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW AG)

Designated Agent: BMW of North America, Inc.

Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey 07875

2. Make: BMW

Model Year/Model: 2000 R 1200 C Motorcycles

Inclusive dates of manufacture: 09/99 - 06/00

3. The number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is 1636.
4. The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect is less than 1%.
5. The potential defect involves the seat backrest of the affected vehicles. The backrest can be adjusted to two positions, horizontal or vertical. In the horizontal position, the backrest acts as a seat cushion for a rear passenger. In the vertical position, it is used as a backrest for the rider.

The backrest contains a leaf spring mounting bracket, which connects the backrest cushion to the adjusting bracket (see attached drawing). It is possible for the mounting bracket, if overloaded with the backrest in

Address
BMW Plaza
Montvale, NJ 07645-1999

Telephone
(201) 678-2100

Facsimile
(201) 782-0764

the vertical position, to crack or break. If the bracket were to break, the backrest would detach from its mount.

The bracket design had previously been changed from one using round mounting holes to the current design with square mounting holes and pressed-in nuts.

6. BMW became aware of the problem as a result of field reports indicating a total of 13 cases worldwide (6 in the US) involving breakage of the backrest mounting bracket. In two of the cases (including one in the US), minor injuries were reported due to the rider's balance being affected. Subsequent analysis has determined that the square-hole design results in an increased notch effect at the corners of the holes, which can lead to breakage of the bracket if it is overloaded.
7. Not applicable
8. BMW will conduct a recall campaign to remedy the potential defect in the affected vehicles. The remedy will consist of replacing the backrest with one containing the original-design mounting bracket with round holes.
BMW expects to begin and complete the sending of notifications to owners by the end of October 2000.
9. A copy of the dealer Service Bulletin will be prepared and submitted when available.
10. A draft copy of the owner notification letter is attached.
11. Not applicable

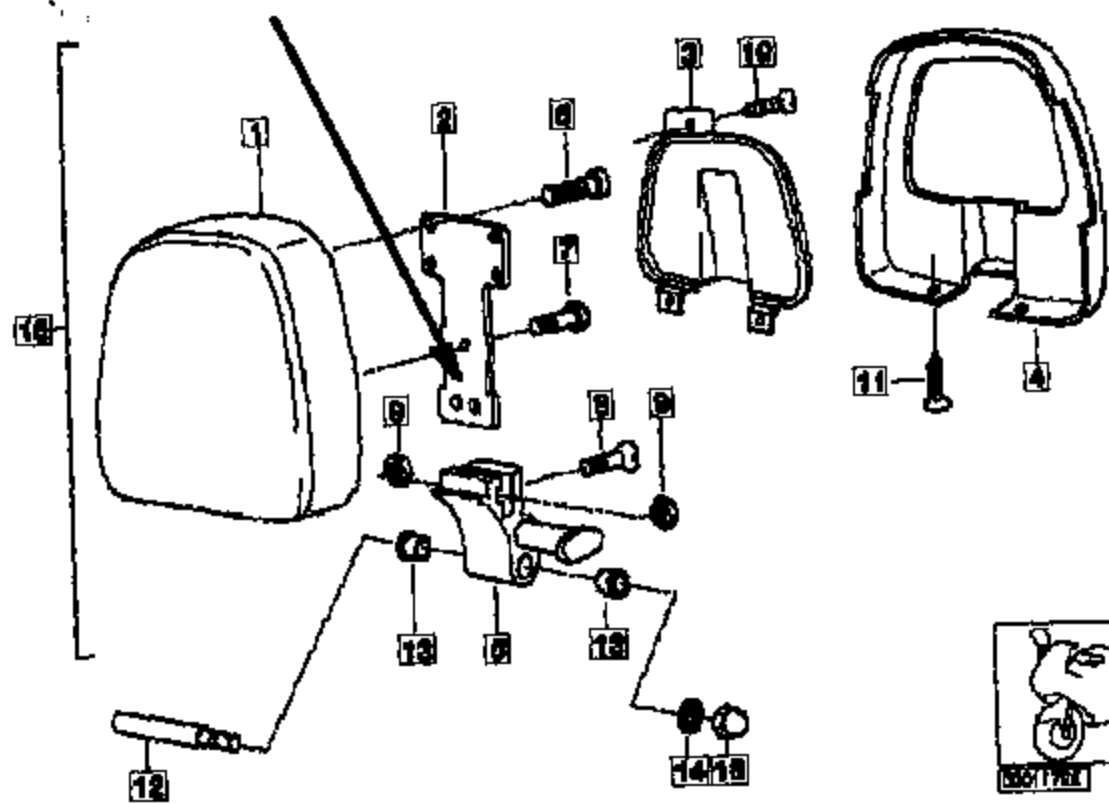
Sincerely,



Karl-Heinz Ziwick
General Manager
Environmental Engineering

Attachment

00V-289 ③



October 2000

DRAFT**Recall Campaign No. 00V-XXX, SEAT BACKREST**

Dear BMW Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

BMW AG has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2000 Model Year R 1200 C motorcycles. Our records indicate that you are the owner of a potentially affected vehicle.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

The potential defect involves the seat backrest of your motorcycle. The backrest contains a mounting bracket, which connects the backrest cushion to the adjusting bracket. It is possible for the mounting bracket, if overloaded with the backrest in the vertical position, to crack or break. If the bracket were to break, the backrest would detach from its mount. If you are leaning against the backrest when it breaks, your balance could be affected and a crash and personal injury could result.

DESCRIPTION OF REPAIR

The remedy will consist of replacing the backrest with one containing an improved mounting bracket design.

This repair will require approximately one hour and will be performed *free of charge* by your Authorized BMW center. Additional time may be required depending on the BMW center's scheduling and processing.

PRECAUTIONS

1. **CONTACT YOUR AUTHORIZED BMW CENTER IMMEDIATELY TO HAVE THE NECESSARY REPAIR PERFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

2. Before the repair is performed, always ride with the backrest in the horizontal, or "down", position so that it acts as a seat cushion for a rear passenger. Do not ride with the backrest in the vertical, or "up" (i.e., backrest) position.
3. If you are not the sole rider of your motorcycle, please advise all other riders of these necessary precautions.

OTHER INFORMATION

If you are no longer the owner of this vehicle, we would appreciate your furnishing us with the name and address of the new owner, using the enclosed postage-paid card.

Should you have any questions about this campaign, please contact your Authorized BMW center.

We appreciate your confidence in our product, and we wish to do everything we can to retain your confidence. Should you need additional assistance, you may contact BMW Customer Relations at 1-800-831-1117, Option #5.

If the BMW center is unable to remedy the defect without charge or within a reasonable period of time, you may notify the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.